SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA: It is not easy to detect where the diversion has taken place. Firstly, I can assure the House that it is very rare that this type of thing happens because one has to go out and then put a certain instrument on an open wire or in the exchange itself which is most unlikely. I would not rule it out altogether, but I can assure the House that it is a very difficult operation and it is not possible as often as the hon. Members think to do so.

As regards giving him rebate on a number of occasions, I can assure him that we will continue doing so whenever he makes a complaint.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Not only to him; you must give to others also.

SHRI INDRADEEP SINHA: Sir, he has not answered my specific question. I can submit the two bills signed by the same person.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please send it to him.

SHRI INDRADEEP SINHA: Twice he signed a wrong bill.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Next question. I think the others will have to wait.

Short supply of drugs

*362. DR. SHANTI G. PATEL:
SHRI M. S. GURUPADASWAMY:

Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that several widely used drugs like aspirin, vitamins, sulpha drugs and antibiotics have been in short supply for the past several months;

(b) whether it is a fact that IDPL has monopoly in respect of import of these drugs;

(c) whether the shortage is due to non-functioning of a number of plants of IDPL; and

(d) if so, what steps have been taken to meet the demand and maintain easy supply of the drugs?

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI VEERENDRA PATIL): (a) There are no reports of shortage of formulations based on Aspirin, Vitamins, Sulpha drugs and Antibiotics. However due to inadequate availability of industrial alcohol, production of some Alcohol based bulk drugs like Aspirin, Vitamin B1 & Vitamin B2 was affected to some extent.

(b) and (c) No, Sir.

(d) In order to arrange the availability of Alcohol, Government have permitted duty free imports of industrial alcohol. For supply of Aspirin, STC has issued No Objection Certificates to the actual users on the advice of this Ministry to enable imports of Aspirin. The production of Vitamin B1 and Vitamin B2 by IDPL has improved in July, 1985.

SHRI M. S. GURUPADASWAMY: I draw the attention of the hon. Minister to a report in the *Statesman* dated 3-8-85. There it is specifically stated: "Aspirin in short supply for the last one year". So, I would like to know why the IDPL's capacity is not fully utilized. I am told that 90 per cent of the capacity is not utilized and there are about 10—12 drugs which have been reserved for the IDPL for manufacturing and they cannot supply these drugs at all. So what are the reasons for non-utilization of this capacity and why this monopoly has been given to the IDPL in spite of the fact that IDPL is not in a position to supply these drugs?

SHRI VEERENDRA PATIL: Sir, the hon. Member wanted to know about production and supply of Aspirin. I have admitted in my reply that so far as Aspirin is concerned, the production has suffered because of non-availability of industrial alcohol. The production of Aspirin dur-

*The question was actually asked on the floor of the House by Shri M. S. Gurupadaswamy.

ing the year 1983-84 was 1526.38 metric tonnes, which went down during the year 1984-85 to 1061.33 metric tonnes. But Aspirin is not being produced by IDPL. The hon. Member is under the impression....

SHRI M. S. GURUPADASWAMY: No, no.

SHRI VEERENDRA PATIL:.... that IDPL is producing Aspirin, whereas IDPL is not producing Aspirin. The entire production of Aspirin comes from Alta Labs and M/s Andhra Sugar. So far as Vitamin B1, Vitamin B2 and other vitamins or other sulpha drugs are concerned, I have got the figures to show that the production has gone up. Only to some extent temporarily because of shortage of alcohol production of some alcohol-based drugs went down. But immediate steps were taken and we allowed the drug manufacturers to import whatever quantity of alcohol they wanted to manufacture these drugs. The position is much better today.

SHRI M. S. GURUPADASWAMY: I know that aspirin is manufactured by Alta Labs and Andhra Sugar. They have been demanding a higher price for the product, I know that. But the fact is, aspirin is in short supply. But the other question he has not answered as to why the capacity of IDPL is not fully utilised and what are the reasons. I am told nearly 90 per cent of the capacity is not utilised on the plea that there is short supply of drug. May I know whether Government will think of allowing free import for all the drugs in future. Especially, there is one drug as I mentioned; Glaucoma is a very serious disease in the country and the drug Timoptic is very difficult to get; it is not available in this country and other drugs that are available, are not effective at all. May I know whether Government will allow import of Timoptic which is most effective, which is produced by America, Germany and other Western countries. I want to know whether he can allow import of Timoptic. This is a specific instance that I am giving. Such vital drugs are needed for treating deadly diseases.

SHRI VEERENDRA PATIL: Sir, the hon. Member wanted to know whether manufacturers of aspirin are demanding higher price. It is true that they are demanding a higher price and it is under consideration. The Government has not taken any final decision.

With regard to capacity utilisation, the hon. Member wanted to know whether it is a fact that IDPL5s capacity utilisation is only 10 per cent and 90 per cent utilisation is not there. It is not so. But I agree with the hon. Member that capacity utilisation of IDPL is not very satisfactory because there is a variety of reasons

The hon. Member wanted to know with regard to a particular drug. Fortunately, these drugs are being produced and percentage of increase is also there. For less capacity utilisation. There are so many reasons and I think if I go into the details, it will take a long time.

The hon. Member wanted to know as to why not we allow free import of drugs. When drugs are in short supply and when drugs are not available or are not being manufactured in the country, to that extent in order to see that drugs are made available, we do not hesitate to import drugs. Sometimes we import bulk drugs; sometimes we import formulations also. But giving a free hand for importing all the drugs whatever they want, will adversely affect the indigenous manufacture. I am happy to inform the House and the hon. Member that so far as the drug industry is concerned, to some extent we have achieved self-sufficiency. We are importing a few drugs which we are not in a position to manufacture; otherwise, there is no need to import the drugs at all.

Hon. Member wanted to know about Pilocarpine eye-drops which are used for Glaucoma. So far as this is concerned, there is shortage not only in our country but in the entire world because, I am told, the plant which is used for manufacturing this, is destroyed and sufficient quantity of the plant is not available. Therefore, there is shortage. But other formulations are being allowed. Hon. Member mentioned about one formulation; I have got the information to show that the equivalent of pilocarpine is another formulation, that is, Timolal which is used for treatment of Glaucoma. It has now been cleared by the Drug Controller for marketing in India and I think very soon it will come in the market.

DR. JOSEPH LEON D'SOUZA: The Minister will appreciate that in the quarter April—June last, IDPL suffered a staggering loss of about Rs. 13 crores and this is mainly due to incompeten handling on the part of the management. The responsibility for this rests fairly and squarely on the shoulders of the Joint Secretary and Member-Director of the Company and the non-Graduate Director of Production and Planning, M. S. P. Chawla. Will the Minister take serious view of this man when the question arises of extension of the term of Director Production...

MR. CHAIRMAN: Not at all relevant. You are in the habit of not being relevant.

SHRIMATI MAIMOONA SULTAN: The first part of it is very relevant.

DR. JOSEPH LEON D.SOUZA:... this is one reason why it is not functioning.

MR. CHAIRMAN: No, please sit down.

SHRIMATI MAIMOONA SULTAN: The first part is very relevant.

MR. CHAIRMAN: That is for me to decide.

श्री जगदम्बी प्रसाद यादव : श्रीमन्, मैं मंत्री जी से जानना चाहता हूं कि आई० डी० पी० एल० का निर्माण इस लिए किया गया था कि दवाई के मामले में हम लोग मल्टीनेशनल कम्पनीज से लूटे जाने थे, उनसे हमारी रक्षा हो और जीवनोपयोगी दवाइयां हमको अपने घर में मिलें। तो मंत्री जी ने यह कहा कि हम एफिशियेंट उत्पादन कर रहे हैं। मैं इतना ही जानना चाहता हूं कि आई० डी० पी० एल० कौन कौन सी दवाइयां बनाती है और अलग अलग उनकी कैपेसिटी क्या है और उसके हिसाब से कितना प्रोडक्शन होता है। देश में इन दवाइयों की कितनी आवश्यकता है और क्या इस मामले में आप एफिशिएंट हैं कि ये दवाइयां विदेशी कंपनियों से न खरीदनी पड़ें।

श्री वीरेन्द्र पाटिल : मान्यवर, आई० डी० पी० एल० कौन कौन सी दवाइयां बनाता है, उनकी कैपेसिटी क्या है, कितना प्रोडक्शन है, यह सारी जानकारी देने के लिए मुझे और पृथक् प्रश्न की आवश्यकता है।

SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Sir, is it a fact that IDPL is the only producer of Vitamin B1 and Vitamin B2 and though there is shortage the same are being sold at a premium in the market? Is it a fact that IDPL is getting advances from the formulators and supplying these two drugs only after six to eight months? Now I would like to know from the hon. Minister the total quantity of the orders of these two drugs which are pending with IDPL. Sir, the Minister has just now replied that the capacity utilisation of IDPL is not satisfactory. What steps are being taken to increase production in order to meet the country's demands?

SHRI VEERENDRA PATIL: Sir, it is not correct to say that IDPL is manufacturing only vitamins. IDPL is manufacturing so many essential and life-saving bulk drugs which are under category I, category II and

category III. In addition to that, IDPL is also manufacturing Vitamin B1 and Vitamin B2. As I said, Sir, another vitamin, that is, Niacinamide, is also being manufatcured by them. The production in 1983-84, so far as Vitamin B1 is concerned, was 47.50 metric tonnes and out of that IDPL produced 42.79 tonnes. From 42.79 tonnes, in 1984-85 the production has gone up to 49.22 tonnes. Similarly, with regard to Vitamin B2 also, the production has more or less been the same because of the inventory. In 1983-84 the production was 20.64 metric tonnes in IDPL and in 1984-85 the production is 18.49 tonnes. I have already explained why production has gone down. It is because of shortage of industrial alcohol, and the position has very much improved in July of this year.

DR. (SHRIMATI) SAROJINI MAHISHI: Sir, the Minister has answered that there is short supply of industrial alcohol. But technical audit of the molasses and alcohol produced therefrom is never done in this country. May I know, Sir, what exactly was the production of alcohol and how he can compare this and say that there is a shortfall in the supply of alcohol in the past three years? Is there any way of comparing it because the total production of the molasses and alcohol is never audited in the country?

SHRI VEERENDRA PATIL: Sir, we are monitoring the production, we are monitoring the supply, and we know which are the States which are in short supply and which are the States which are in surplus so for as molasses are concerned, so far as alcohol is concerned. The difficulty is, so far as alcohol is concerned, the demand for potable alcohol has gone up. Naturally, preference is given to potable alcohol with the result that the requirements of industrial alcohol are not fully met. We have been repeatedly writing and in every State today they are demanding more and more alcohol. For instance supply of industrial alcohol to IDPL in Muzaffarpur is the responsibility of the State Government. In spite of writing repeatedly, the State Government is not supplying industrial alcohol with the result that the Muzaffarpur unit is not functioning properly. So, these are our difficulties. In order to overcome these difficulties we have decided to import indusrial alcohol, duty-free.

H.E.C. Ranchi

*363. SHRI ASHWANI KUMAR:
SHRI S. W. DHABE.

Will the Minister of INDUSTRY AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the installed capacity of H.E.C., Ranchi according to a Soviet project report was 80,000 tonnes per annum;

(b) whether a committee headed by the C.M.D. assessed its production capacity to be 52,000 tonnes;

(c) whether another committee headed by a Member of the Planning Commission, Mr. M. Fazal scaled down the assessed capacity further to 35,000 tonnes;

(d) what has been the maximum turn over of this plant; and

(e) what are the reasons for this under utilisation of capacity and what steps are being contemplated to set it right?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ARIF MOHD. KHAN): (a) to (e) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT

(a) Yes, Sir. The Soviet Detailed Project Report for Heavy Machine Building Plant (HMBP), a unit of HEC, projected the capacity at 80,000 tonnes per annum for the product-mix defined for the plant when it was conceived in 1950s.

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*The questions actually asked on the floor of the House by Shri Ashwani Kumar.